

REMARKS

Claims 20 and 21, both of which are independent claims, are pending in the application, with Claims 1 to 19 having been cancelled herein.

Favorable consideration and early passage to issue are respectfully requested.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on attached Form PTO-1449.

U.S. Patent No. 4,833,531

U.S. Patent No. 5,428,461

U.S. Patent No. 5,812,111

EP 0 369 301

EO 0 625 761

Search Report in EP 99 30 8406

These documents were cited in parent Application No. 09/425,007, and might be deemed pertinent for the reasons given there. The Examiner is respectfully directed to Patent and Trademark Office files in Application No. 09/425,007 for review of these documents. See M.P.E.P. § 609.

Inasmuch as the subject application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the

claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

CONCLUSION

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 40,595

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

CA_MAIN 69418 v 1